



PUBLIC HEALTH BYTES

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Henrico Health Department's Newsletter

Working in partnership
with the citizens of
Henrico County to create
the conditions for health.

September
2008
Volume 4
Issue 9

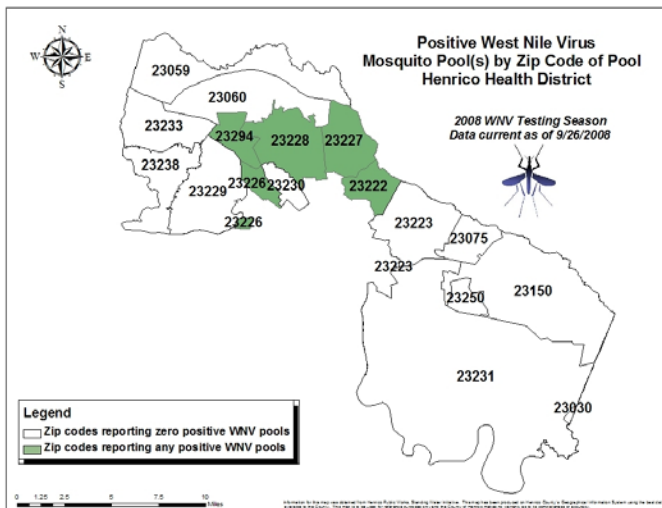
Communicable Diseases

Seasonal Influenza: Changes in the 2008-09 influenza season recommendations include the following: 1) Addition of vaccination of children 5-18 years as we transition to routinely vaccinating all children, 2) Either TIV or LAIV for healthy persons 2-49 years of age, 3) Three new vaccine strains for the 08-09 season, and 5) While oseltamivir resistant strains have been identified, oseltamivir and zanamivir continue to be the recommended antivirals in U.S.

See: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr57e717.pdf>

Environmental Health

Arboviral Update - Henrico: The 23227 zip code was added to the list of Henrico County zip codes reporting West Nile Virus positive mosquito pools, which also includes 23222, 23226, 23228 and 23294. To date, there have been 15 WNV positive mosquito collections this season, all of which have been Culex pipiens/restuans mosquitoes. The state's first human case of West Nile Virus infection for 2008 was confirmed in a 71-year old Fairfax County resident.



Community Health Improvement

Saving Babies in Henrico: Henrico Health Department is actively involved in the initiation of a local chapter of a program called *Community Voice*. *Community Voice* focuses on increasing community awareness of mother and baby health issues by distributing health information to promote lifestyle changes via lay health advisors. Its primary goal is to improve the birth outcomes in a community. Several health department employees are attending training on the program in the coming week and are excited about getting the program started in Henrico County. **Community Health Profile:** US Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) recently updated community health profiles. County specific profiles can be found at: <http://communityhealth.hhs.gov>

Pandemic Flu - ALERT PHASE WHO: 3; US: 0

Pandemic/Avian Flu Update: Human Cases –Two human H5N1 infections that occurred in July were retrospectively confirmed in Indonesian males ages 20 and 38 years. Of the 387 human H5N1 cases reported by fifteen countries between 2003 and 2008, 245 were fatal (63.3%).

Emergency Preparedness

Chemical Emergencies: VDH and the Henrico County public safety community successfully tested our ability to forward deploy a “Chempack” for a recent, local large-scale public event in Henrico. The Chempack is a federal asset that provides antidotes needed to respond to a nerve agent incident. This test was not done out of concern for an actual emergency, but rather as a drill to assure that the plan to transport the Chempack prior to an event was sound. The test went well and no problems were encountered. Needless to say, there was no need for the use of its contents. This was the first special event forward deployment of a Chempack to date in Virginia and was a good example of the effective partnership among the Henrico Health District, Emergency Management, Public Safety and VDH.

MRC: Thanks to all who signed up to help in the event of impact from Hurricane Hanna earlier this month.

Prevention Updates

Chronic Hepatitis B identification and management guidelines: CDC recently updated the recommendations for testing for chronic hepatitis B in the U.S. Routine testing for chronic hepatitis B is now recommended for: Persons born in Asia, Africa, and other geographic regions with a prevalence of chronic HBV infection greater than or equal to 2% (including immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers and internationally adopted children); Unvaccinated persons who were born in the U.S. and whose parents are from highly endemic regions; Men who have sex with men; Injection drug users; Persons with selected medical conditions, including abnormal liver function tests not explained by other factors and persons who require immunosuppressive therapy. The recommendations also call for continuing to test pregnant women, infants born to hepatitis B-infected mothers, and persons infected with HIV. See <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5708.pdf>

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